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On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
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Building campus inclusiveness is Enrichment Day theme

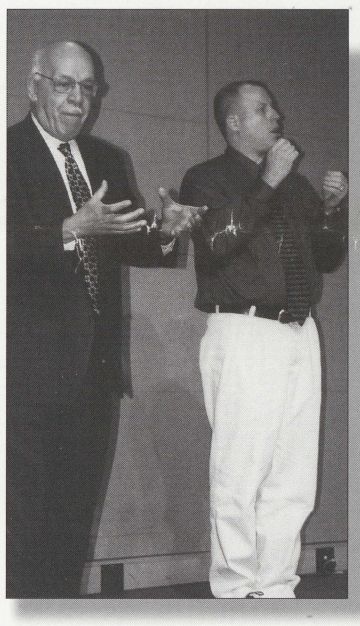
The October 12 terrorist attack on the Navy warship USS Cole that left 17 dead; the escalating violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians that has resulted in 130 casualties, to date; violence in Sierra Leone, Angola, Sudan, and many other parts of the world; the September 28 death of Eric Plunkett in his Gallaudet University dormitory room. All of these incidents carried headlines in a recent edition of *The Washington Post,* but they also bore deeper similarities.

In his address to the Gallaudet community at Enrichment Day on October 17, the Rev. Lawrence Jones pointed out that the tragedies described in the daily news were alike in that they "were concerned with events having to do with the penchant of human beings everywhere, individually and collectively, to do violence to other persons or groups and to inflict them with indignities and indecencies." Historically, groups and individuals perceived by the majority as "different" because of their religion, their culture, their national origin, physical handicaps, gender, their sexual orientation, or other characteristics, have been "isolated, ignored, treated prejudicially, or victimized in ways that boggle the imagination and credulity," said Rev. Jones, dean emeritus of the Howard University School of Divinity.

"Yet, difference and diversity are universal aspects of human beings," said Rev. Jones, noting that universities such as Gallaudet and Howard exist to educate individuals who belong to minority groups. It is because of the fact that Gallaudet is a haven for students who in the past have been oppressed, that Plunkett's death has been particularly shocking. For this reason, student retention—an issue of vital importance to the University—was replaced as the theme for this year's Enrichment Day in order to delve into the meaning of inclusiveness and examine ways to strengthen the campus community.

Plunkett's death, said Rev. Jones, has evoked many emotions among the people on campus. "For some it must have pre

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Rev. Lawrence Jones makes a point during his keynote address at Enrichment Day. (Also pictured is interpreter Bruce Riley, at right.)



Dr. Eleanor Hubbard, a professor of sociology at the University of Colorado, (shown with interpreter John Lewis) observes a discussion topic on building inclusiveness at an Enrichment Day workshop that she led.

Enrichment Day 2000 welcome address

—President I. King Jordan

Good morning, thank you for being here.

This morning our Gallaudet is going to have a very important discussion, one I hope that helps us increase our understanding and strengthen our community.

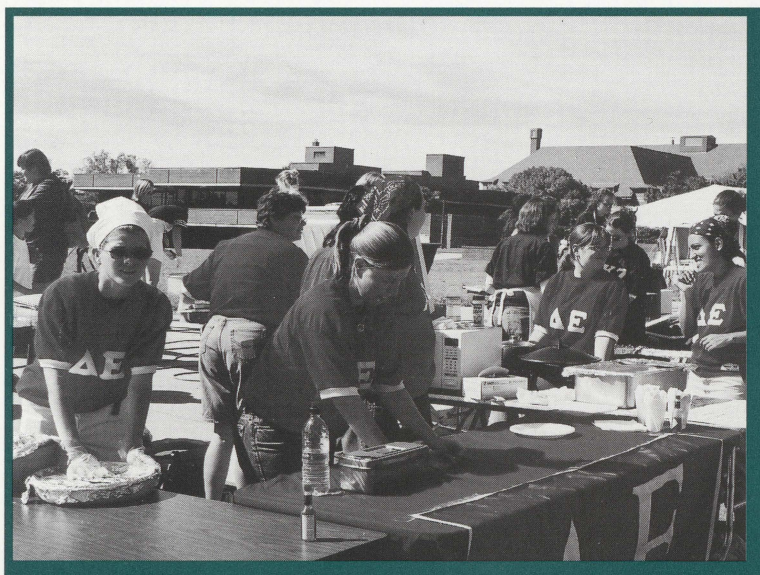
In the last twelve years, I have given many speeches introducing workshops or conferences. None has been so difficult to write as this one because the impetus for our conversation this morning was a terrible tragedy.

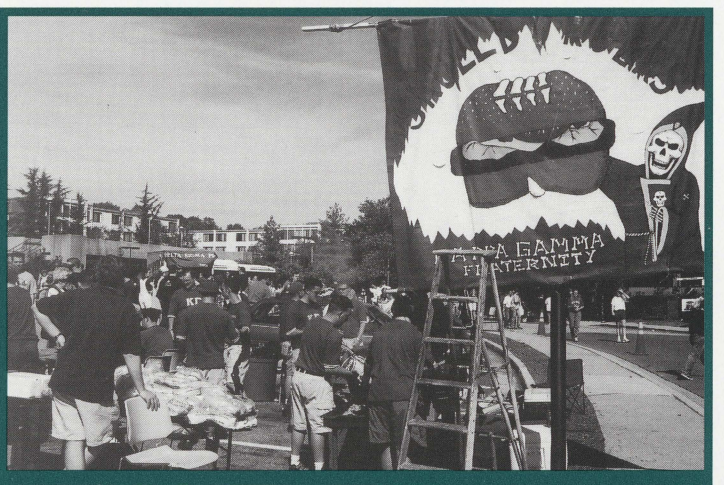
Eric Plunkett, a young man with great promise and a great zest for life, was killed on our campus. I am proud that the tragedy has brought out the best in the Gallaudet community. Many individuals—faculty, staff and students— helped each other and helped Eric's family. We have spent countless hours talking with those who needed support to get through this tragic period. That support goes on daily.

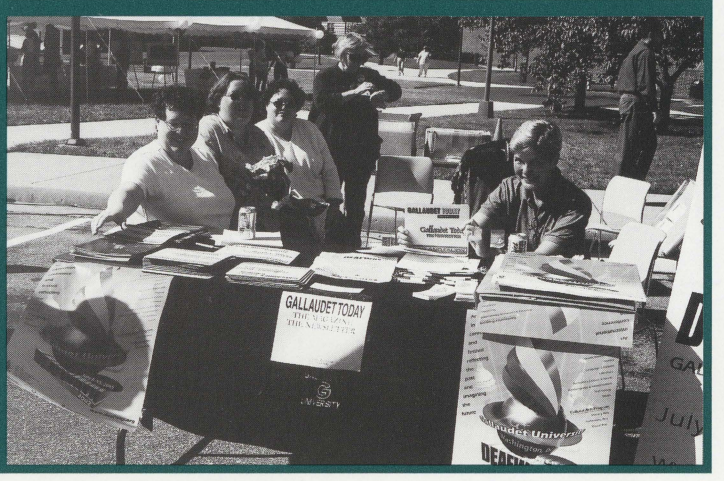
But, at the same time, I am more distressed than I can express that Eric's death has also brought out some of the worst in our community. In the aftermath of Eric's death, I have learned that some members of our community are being harassed because of their sexual orientation.

They are afraid because of who they are, because they belong to a group that some individuals persecute. At Gallaudet, that kind of behavior is unacceptable. I will not tolerate it and I hope that you will not tolerate it either.

continued on page 2







Various campus units, student groups, and deafness-related business and organizations set up booths in the HMB parking lot on October 14 before the Homecoming football game to dispense information and a variety of foods. Clockwise from top left: Delta Epsilon sorority and the Kappa Gamma fraternity stayed busy satisfying pre-game appetites; the Office of Public Relations had plenty of Deaf Way II posters, copies of *Gallaudet Today* magazines, computer mouse pads, and other freebies to hand out to alumni and other visitors.

ON THE GREEN

DWII fact:

There will be 11 different presentation topics: advocacy and community development; economics; education; health/mental health; history; language and culture; literature; recreation, leisure, and sports; sign language and interpretation; technology; and youth. Presenters are encouraged to begin planning their proposals now; the online call for proposals form is available at www.deafway.org. Students and/or young people (26 years old and under) who want to be presenters are encouraged to apply. Also, selected adult presenters may be asked if they would be willing to modify their presentation for additional addresses to young audiences.

The DWII conference planning committee and the marketing committee ask for your assistance in targeting potential conference presenters and workshop leaders. If you know of any individual or organization you think would be interested in presenting at DWII, please send an e-mail to the marketing committee at marketin@deafway.org.

ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Dear Aunt Sophie,

I still can't believe that one of our students was actually killed in his dorm room. That kind of thing happens at other places, not here. And I hate it that gay students feel so afraid and unwelcome. I have a gay friend on campus and when I asked if she felt that way, she said she did but didn't think it would help to say so. This is all so depressing. I love Gallaudet and it hurts me to see this happening here.

Depressed

Dear Depressed,

As downright painful as it may be for all of us right now, it is also moments like this that show the world exactly what a university and its community of students, staff, and faculty are made of. It seems to me we have two choices: We can sweep all this "under the rug" as quickly as possible and hope it goes away forever; or we can recognize our soul-wrenching crisis and the ugly specter of intolerance associated with it for what they are, and work together to make our community a kinder, more inclusive place for everyone.

If you really and truly love Gallaudet the way you say you do, you will join with those of us who believe that the second option is our only choice.

WHAT'S HAPPENING... AND WHEN

November

1-Meeting to discuss and share issues of unique learners, Ely Center Multipurpose Room, 12-1 p.m.; Book Discussion Group, Ely Center Workshop Room 100, 12-2 p.m.

2-Volleyball, CAC Semifinals, 7 p.m.

4-Cross Country, CAC Championship at Salisbury State, 11 a.m.; Football at Stevens State, 1 p.m.; Volleyball, CAC Championship, TBD

6-Meningococcal Vaccine, Ely Center Multipurpose Room, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., for more information contact Chantrawan Chittasingh, x5090

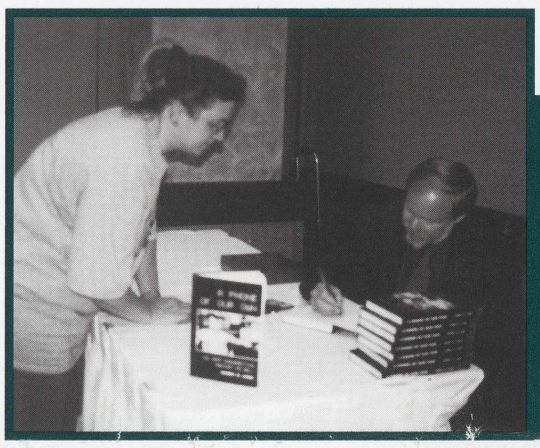
8-Book Discussion Group, Ely Center, Room #100, 12-2 p.m.

9-Recreation Day, Ely Center Multipurpose Room, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., for more info. e-mail Carol.Riddick

11-Cross Country at NCAA Regionals at CNU, 11 a.m.

15-Book Discussion Group, Ely Center, Room 100, 12-2 p.m.; Meeting to discuss and share issues of unique learners, Ely Center Multipurpose Room, 12-1 p.m.; Presentation on American CODA Stories, Ely Auditorium, 6-9 p.m., for more information e-mail Keisha.Scovens

16-Open Season Health Plan Fair and HEW Federal Credit Union Membership Drive, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Ely Center Multipurpose Room



Gallaudet University Press and the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society in Education sponsored a book signing by Dr. Harry Lang, author of *A Phone of our Own: The Deaf Insurrection Against Ma Bell,* on October 18. *A Phone of our Own* tells the story of Robert Weitbrecht, James Marsters, and Andrew Saks, the three deaf men who developed and promoted the technology that enabled teletypewriters to convert sound into electric impulses that correspond to the alphabet. The book also explains the deaf community's lobbying efforts to get the government to guarantee accessible relay systems and large-scale distributions of TTY's. Lang is shown signing a copy of his book for student Janeen Wilson.

Correction:

An article reporting on the Board of Trustees' October 6 meeting on campus that appeared in the October 18 issue of *On the Green* inadvertently omitted Susan Dickinson's name from the list of board members who were reappointed to five-year terms. *On the Green* apologizes for the oversight.

Address from Dr. Jordan

continued from page 1

As I thought about what I wanted to say this morning to try to set the tone for today, I decided that I wanted to touch on a few concepts I think are key to diversity: how our university reflects our society; the conflict of the freedom of speech with the responsibility of each individual to make sure his or her speech is not hurtful and damaging; and finally my vision for what an inclusive and diverse campus community is.

I have said often that Gallaudet is a microcosm of America—indeed we have more diversity on this small campus than is evident in many American communities. Our country was founded on a belief in pluralism, religious freedom and the dignity and worth of each individual. But as a nation, we do not yet know how to deal with the remarkable diversity of our time, whether it is ethnic diversity or racial diversity or difference in sexual orientation.

To our credit, as a society, we are talking about diversity and are doing the best we can to make changes. But we have a long way to go. I read in The Washington Post *yesterday morning the appalling statistics related to the death penalty.*

Whether you believe in the death penalty or not, you cannot help but be shocked by how the murderers of people of color are far less likely to be put to death than the murderers of white people. Reading that article suggests that as a nation, we don't care as much when a person of color dies.

We all know about the "don't ask, don't tell" policy of our military. Individuals who are gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgendered—who don't fit into the "norm" of heterosexuality are supposed to hide their sexual orientation. Indeed, it is a tragedy for so many young people to have to hide who they are. And many individuals in all walks of life do not openly admit they are gay.

What do these examples have to do with Gallaudet? Among our students, a higher percentage of students of color do not persist to graduation. Among our students, someone who is identified as sexually "different" must hide that identity or face the possibility of insults or even threats. Just last week, some students felt it unsafe to participate in the National Coming Out Day.

At Gallaudet, that is unacceptable. I will not tolerate it and I hope that you will not tolerate it either.

On Saturday I was walking through one of the dorms with the CRE. We went past a door on which someone had written "fag." Although someone had tried to wash it off, it was still clear and visible.

Many universities have adopted speech codes to try to prevent language that is hurtful and hateful. Gallaudet does not have a speech code but we do have a code of conduct for students that explicitly prohibits "verbal abuse, threat, intimidation, or harassment" as well as "bias-related harassment" which "includes harassment against an individual because of race, religion, creed, gender, age, ethnicity, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation."

Gallaudet employees are also bound by the code of conduct which is the first policy in the Administration and Operations Manual *as well as strong affirmative action and sexual harassment policies.*

Those policies were not designed to block free speech. Rather they were developed to protect each of us from open and blatant discrimination. They frame the kind of open discussion we are aiming for today.

I read not too long ago about a student at a large Midwestern state university who hung an anti-gay banner outside his dorm window. When the university told him to remove it, he claimed he was expressing his opinion. When I went to the web to try to track down the specifics of that example, I was astonished at how many incidents of gay/lesbian bashing are recounted.

At Gallaudet I want to be clear. We must understand the difference between our beliefs, which are personal, and our behaviors, which are public.

At Gallaudet, behaving in ways that hurt others is unacceptable. I will not tolerate it and I hope that you will not tolerate it either.

Ever since I have been president I have envisioned a Gallaudet in which we all know that diversity is not a negative but is a major contributing force to the life and vitality of this learning community. The Gallaudet Vision Statement, which was developed by this community more than five years ago, ends with the words "respect for all will be a hallmark of all we do."

Today we are close to adopting a credo that expresses our core beliefs and values. The first value states, "We believe that every person deserves respect and should respect others, and that our community is strengthened by the broad diversity of its members."

I hope by the end of this morning, we will have a list of programs and initiatives that we can undertake, to make both those statements more real. But I believe that while those programs may help, it is only when each of us looks inside ourselves and decides that our hearts must be large enough to embrace the wonderful diversity of humankind, that we will change, Gallaudet will change and America will change.

I hope that the conversations we have today are open and honest. They may be difficult and they may be awkward, but they are an important way we can begin that difficult process of self-examination.

At Gallaudet, what is acceptable is inclusive thinking and open minds. I believe that must be our goal if we are to keep Gallaudet strong and vibrant and I hope you do too.

Check out 'On the Green's' Web version

Many of the articles and photographs that appear in each week's issue of *On the Green* can also be read in *On the Green's* Web version, the online version of Gallaudet's faculty/staff newsletter. *On the Green*'s Web version can be accessed through the University's homepage.

ON THE GREEN

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98-342M

An open letter to the Gallaudet campus community:

6 October, 2000

All of us are deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic death of Eric Franklin Plunkett. No words can adequately convey our sympathy to his family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them.

We are also stunned and appalled to learn of threats and harassment directed at students connected to the Lambda Society of Gallaudet University, as well as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people on campus, or those who may be perceived as members of this community. As faculty and staff at Gallaudet University, we deplore such actions and call for a concerted university effort to combat bias crimes and incidents.

We laud the recent denunciations of such actions by university officials. On October 3, President Jordan wrote, "Be assured that we very much value the diversity present on our campus and any hint of discrimination against anyone or group will not be tolerated." That afternoon Dr. Fernandes, university provost, stated before the campus community, "Threats to any member of the Gallaudet community will not be tolerated." In an article in *The Washington Post* on the same day, university public relations spokesperson Mercy Coogan was quoted as saying, "This is an open community. We do not discriminate. And if people do discriminate, they just don't belong here."

As a community we must stand together to make these words a reality. We must make it clear that intolerance for any difference is unacceptable on this campus. Discrimination for reasons of perceived race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or disability is illegal in the District of Columbia and Gallaudet University must continue to be exemplary in the enforcement of the law.

Deaf people are all too familiar with the tragic results of bigotry, oppression and discrimination. As the premier institution of higher learning for deaf and hard of hearing students, we must do what we can do best—educate about tolerance.

The letter, drafted by Dr. Donna Ryan, professor, and Dr. Barry Bergen, associate professor, both of the Department of History and Government, generated overwhelming support from the campus community. Individuals who would like to add their signature to the list of names supporting the letter may send their request in writing to Bergen or Ryan, HMB S235, or by email to: barry.bergen@gallaudet.edu or donna.ryan@gallaudet.edu.



(Center) Nippon Foundation officials Mr. Yasunobu Iishi, manager of international affairs, and Ms. Mizuki Suga, director of international affairs, gather in the Conference Center lobby October 4 with Gallaudet's Sasakawa scholarship recipients and (left, rear) Dr. Yerker Andersson, steering committee chair for the University's World Deaf Leadership Program, (from right) Dr. Robert Mobley, interim director for the Center for Global Education, Dr. Reginald Redding, dean of the College for Continuing Education—both of whom are members of the WDL steering committee—and Cathy Sweet-Windham, executive director of Development. The Nippon officials were on campus for the day to review the progress of the WDL, which is in its fifth and final year of training deaf leaders in Thailand and South Africa. (The WDL is currently identifying other nations to initiate training programs in the deaf community, said Mobley, and an announcement of which countries are chosen will be made in the near future.) During their day on campus, Iishi and Mizuki had lunch with students who are earning degrees from Gallaudet through grants from the Sasakawa International Scholarship Fund, which is supported by the Nippon Foundation. The officials' visit to Gallaudet was part of a United States tour of various sites where programs funded by Nippon grants are in place.

Health Fair coming to Gallaudet

One of the biggest topics in this year's hot presidential campaign is also a hot topic on campus. Everyone is talking about health care. They are concerned about the large number of health maintenance organizations (HMOs) that have gone bankrupt, provide unsatisfactory service, or deny specific services. Another area of unrest is the large number of Americans and senior citizens who do not have insurance, cannot afford to buy prescriptions, or go to the doctor.

The good news is that all regular status employees at Gallaudet are eligible for health insurance and have a large selection of plans to choose from-at affordable rates. During Open Season, which starts November 13 and runs through December 11, regular status employees will be able to change their plans or choose a new one, if they so desire.

To help employees become familiar with any changes in the many health plans, the Personnel Office is hosting an Open Season Health Fair on November 16 in the Ely Center Multipurpose Room from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During the Health Fair, employees will have the opportunity to meet with representatives of different health plans, get benefit books, and ask questions about the plans.

Only one plan—Prudential—has withdrawn this year. The other 13 plans are still available. However, their benefits, prices, choice of doctors, and other options may have changed from last year. "That's why it's important to come to the Health Fair, to find out what benefits have been added or deleted from your plan," said Agnes Muse, benefits specialist in the Personnel Office.

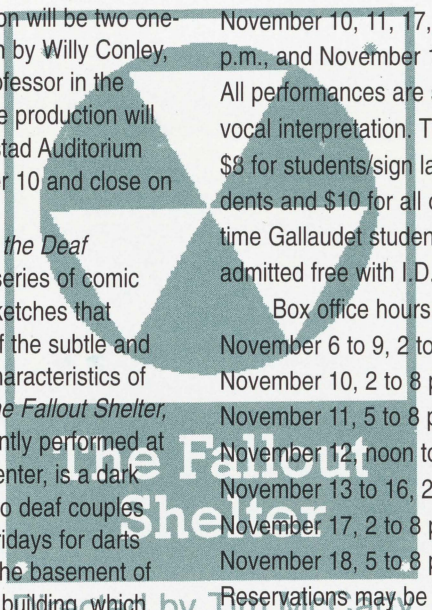
Muse strongly encourages employees to read the plan books before choosing a plan. It is helpful to compare the plans and contrast them with their needs. The plans also differ widely in cost. People do make mistakes when they pick their health plan, Muse added. "The most common mistake people make is that they don't read the booklets carefully, and then after it's too late they find their benefits have changed. Also, the co-pay may have changed, or their doctor is not on the plan anymore," she said.

After the Health Fair, booklets will be available outside Muse's office in College Hall, Room 113. Once Open Season ends, health plans cannot be changed for one year. People who elect to change their plan will have it go into effect the first full pay period in January.

Theatre Arts Department presents:

The Theatre Arts Department's fall production will be two one-act plays written by Willy Conley, an assistant professor in the department. The production will open on the Elstad Auditorium stage November 10 and close on November 18.

Vignettes of the Deaf Character is a series of comic and dramatic sketches that explore some of the subtle and not-so-subtle characteristics of deaf people. *The Fallout Shelter,* which was recently performed at the Kennedy Center, is a dark comic tale of two deaf couples who meet on Fridays for darts and laundry in the basement of their apartment building, which, unknown to them, is an old fallout shelter run by a former Civil Defense manager.



Production dates are November 10, 11, 17, and 18 at 8 p.m., and November 12 at 2 p.m. All performances are signed with vocal interpretation. Tickets are $8 for students/sign language students and $10 for all others. Full-time Gallaudet students are admitted free with I.D.

Box office hours are: November 6 to 9, 2 to 5 p.m.; November 10, 2 to 8 p.m.; November 11, 5 to 8 p.m.; November 12, noon to 2 p.m.; November 13 to 16, 2 to 5 p.m.; November 17, 2 to 8 p.m.; and November 18, 5 to 8 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling X5500 (V/TTY) or X5502 (TTY), or e-mail Joanne.Rackham.

Gallaudet receives challenge grant from Kresge Foundation

Gallaudet embarked on a $30 million Capital Campaign in 1997. The Kresge Foundation recently gave the University a big incentive to reach its goal by awarding the University an $800,000 challenge grant—providing that it successfully completes the Capital Campaign by December 31, 2001.

"The Kresge Foundation is a very prestigious philanthropic foundation, and Gallaudet is honored to be awarded this significant grant," said Cathy Sweet-Windham, executive director of Development. "I am confident we will achieve our capital campaign goal of $30 million."

This is the second Kresge Foundation challenge grant that the University has received. In 1993, Kresge awarded $750,000 to Gallaudet for the renovation and rededication of Hall Memorial Building. Grants are awarded to institutions in the areas of higher education, health and long-term care, arts and humanities, human services, science and the environment, and public affairs. They go toward projects involving construction or renovation of facilities and the purchase of major capital equipment or real estate.

The Kresge Foundation is an independent, private foundation created by the personal gifts of Sebastian S. Kresge. It is not affiliated with any corporation or organization. This year the Foundation has awarded 162 grants totaling over $103 million.



Over the past 25 years, hundreds of Gallaudet graduates have chosen career paths, developed job skills, and found employment opportunities, thanks to the University's Career Center. The center celebrated its first quarter century on October 13 during Homecoming to give alumni—many of whom took advantage of the center's programs when they were students—an opportunity to attend. President Jordan was on hand to praise the Career Center's role in showing employers the skills of Gallaudet students. But it wasn't always this way-when they began through Experiential Programs Off Campus (EPOC), internships for college students were a novel idea—not only at Gallaudet, but for all of the nation's universities—and they were initially a hard sell. Over the years, however, they have gained widespread acceptance, and the job market eagerly embraces the hard work and enthusiasm that students bring. EPOC and the Career Center merged in 1992 and in 1996 the new Career Center was merged with Academic Advising to provide comprehensive career and academic advising programs for students. Last year alone, 163 students found internships due to the positive reputation that this valuable campus unit has earned over the years. "Our students are employed in all sectors of the economy—from biology to business," said Dr. Nancy Pollock-Carroll, director of Academic Advising/Career Center. "Today's students are clear as to what they want to do when they graduate, and they realize that work experience makes them a lot more marketable when they go to look for full-time jobs." A recent alumni survey reveals that 90 percent of Gallaudet alumni are employed in their major field of study, clearly validating Pollock-Carroll's statement. Pictured with Dr. Jordan at the Career Center's 25th anniversary celebration are all eight of the center's staff, plus four academic advisers. (From left): seated—Thelma Schroeder, Academic Advising coordinator; Karen Cook; Anjali Desai-Margolin; standing—Pollock Caroll; Mary Drinkwater; Jordan; Pamela Mower; Jacki Blount; Deb Baron; Sharrell McCaskill; Jerri Lyn Klimkiewicz; Daniel Timlen; and Gregory Ellis, Career Center coordinator. (Not pictured is Ann Lynn Smith, academic advising trainee.)



Sports Roundup

By David Tossman

Cross-Country
Sophomore Natalie Ludwig once again led the way for Gallaudet at the Virginia State Division 3 Championships. Ludwig ran the 5,000 in 19:47, good for 11th place out of 89 runners. Ludwig finished two minutes, 28 seconds out of first place. Seven other sophomores rounded out the Gallaudet team, led by Sandy Sloat in 35th at 21:05, and Fatimah Aziz in 40th at 21:28. The men were paced by freshman Bryan Hendricks, who finished 16th overall at 27:05. Sophomores Gilles Naniwe and Aaron Sowder came in 45th and 46th place at 28:45 and 28:52.

Volleyball
The competition has gotten much tougher for Coach Patrick O'Brien's team over the last two weeks. At the Gallaudet Tournament on October 7, the Bison went 2-2, with their losses coming against 18-4 Christopher Newport and 15-1 Frostburg State. The highlight of the season was Senior Night October 11, when O'Brien honored his five seniors, Stacy Nowak, Shanada Johnson, Trisha Boyd, Dawn Schnoor, and Jenny Cooper before the game. The Bison then celebrated these five successful student-athletes' final regular season home game in typical fashion by beating York College before over 400 fans, 15-7, 15-17, 9-15, 15-7, 15-9. At the always tough Western Maryland College Tournament Oct. 13 and 14, the Bison went 1-3.

Football
Despite 159 yards rushing from senior halfback Kenny Austin, a one-yard touchdown run and two tackles from senior offensive guard/defensive tackle/fullback Jesse Hayes, and a 7-0 halftime lead, the Bison couldn't notch their first win during the Homecoming game against Williamson Trade. A seven-yard pass from freshman quarterback Chris Harris to freshman fullback Russell Koenig accounted for the only points in the first half. Being on the field for much of the first half wore down the defense as it gave up three touchdowns in a 4.5-minute span of the third quarter to fall behind 20-7. The team fought back in the fourth quarter from a 26-7 deficit, scoring on Hayes's one-yard touchdown run with 9:25 to play for the final 26-13 margin. Harris finished the game 9-20, passing for 88 yards, with two interceptions and one touchdown. He also rushed for 45 yards on nine carries. As a team, the Bison averaged 5.9 yards a carry. The defense was led by junior Preston Ponder with 11 tackles, including one for a loss, and two passes defended; freshman Ryan Zarembka with 11 tackles and one for a loss; and freshman Marlon Wynne with 10 tackles, one fumble recovery, and one pass defended.

Women's Soccer
The team enters the Capital Athletic Conference Tournament continuing its quest for the first winning season in school history with a 9-9 record. Freshman Kelli Beechy leads the conference in scoring with 18 goals in 17 games. On October 4, the team beat Hood 7-0. It lost to Catholic 3-0 on October 7, and on October 11 lost to Mary Washington 10-0. Anxious to show a large Homecoming crowd its impressive improvement, the team was let down by Dundalk Community College, which forfeited by not coming to Gallaudet.

Men's Soccer
Head Coach Kris Gould's young team has been battling injuries to several key players, including leading scorer Roy Ricci Vanderstok and leading defender Edgardo Macias. The great hustle of the team continues as it seeks to build up for next year with a great nucleus, returning every player except for senior goalkeeper David Fraser. On October 5 the team lost to Villa Julie, 2-0, on October 7, it lost to Wesley, 4-1, and on October 11 it lost to Western Maryland, 8-1.

Track coach named
Athletic Director Jimmy DeStefano has announced the hiring of a new track coach. Tiffany Granfors, a 1989 graduate and former member of the Track and Cross-Country teams. Granfors brings a wealth of experience to the position, including being coordinator of the Deaf World Games Track and Field team, Secretary of the USA Deaf Track and Field organization, and holder of a USA Track and Field Level 1 Coaching Certificate. Granfors was a gold-medalist at the 1985 World Games for the Deaf.

D.C. adds chloramine to drinking water

As of November 1, the Washington Aqueduct Division will begin using cloramine, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, to disinfect and improve the quality of the drinking water in the city. This water could reach the Gallaudet water system as soon as November 2, according to Larry Ott of Gallaudet's facilities group.

The use of chloramine will stop the production of chlorine byproducts, kill or inactivate bacteria, and lessen the chlorine taste and odor. The EPA reports that chloramine will be safe for everyday uses, including drinking, preparing baby formula, for people on low sodium diets, and individuals with diabetes.

However, two groups of people need to take special care with chloraminated water—kidney dialysis patients and people with fish tanks. Dialysis patients and dialysis centers will need to take precautions to have their water pretreated. Additionally, according to the Washington Aqueduct Division, "fish tank owners...who now treat for chlorine in the water, should assure that they have appropriate carbon filtration equipment or use water treatment products that neutralize chloramine. These products are available from pet and aquarium stores, as well as from companies that service commercial fish tanks."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for operating the potable water system in the District of Columbia. Gallaudet does not treat or alter the potable water received at Gallaudet from the city water system in any way.

CLERC CENTER HAPPENINGS

Miss Deaf America visits Clerc Center to share her literacy message

By Susan M. Flanigan and Cathryn Carroll

The new Miss Deaf America, Lauren Teurel, a graduate of California State University-Northridge and the Model Secondary School for the Deaf, toured the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center demonstration schools as one of her first official visits. During her tour, Teurel shared with students her message of the importance of reading, and told the story of how she became Miss Deaf America.

Teurel is the 17th Miss Deaf America and the first African American to win the crown. She vied with contestants from 21 other states in a seven-day competition that ended on the last night of the National Association of the Deaf convention in Norfolk, Va. The contestants performed in several different events, including talent, evening gown, and issue presentation. As part of her presentation and to emphasize the importance of families reading together, Teurel performed a read-aloud of the story, "The Giving Tree."

While visiting students at Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, Teurel held discussions and performed read-alouds with students. Students from Team 3/4/5 asked her why she wanted to become Miss Deaf America. Teurel replied she wanted to develop her skills as a speaker and to spread the word that families benefit greatly from reading together with their children. They also asked her where her crown was. She smiled and said that the six-pound crown was too heavy to wear for touring. She encouraged the girls in the audience to work hard so that maybe someday they too could compete for the Miss Deaf America title.

In the evening, Teurel visited with students at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf, giving an informal presentation and holding a question and answer session. She discussed her own path to success and offered encouragement to the students in pursuing their dreams. Her reign as Miss Deaf America will last from 2000 to 2002.



Miss Deaf America and MSSD graduate Lauren Teurel performs a read-aloud for the KDES kindergarten class during a recent visit.

Enrichment Day

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cipitated feelings of fear for one's safety; for others it probably aroused suspicions and loosed long suppressed intolerance relating to a variety of persons and life styles. ... Some persons must have been baffled by the realization that a murder could occur in this community, and you doubtless were frustrated at your inability adequately to comprehend how one person can take the life of another."

Every decision, every action we take affects not only our own lives, but to some degree, the lives of everyone around us. "The quality of life in our world will be determined to some degree by our willingness to take responsibility for our life together," he said. To illustrate his point, he told a parable of a petitioner who "was expressing concerns to God for the rampant evil in the world. He asked the creator: `Why don't you do something about it?' To which the reply was given, `Why don't you?'" Rev. Jones asked the audience, "Why not, indeed?"

Following Rev. Jones address, members of the campus community grouped at tables in the Conference Center ballroom for a workshop entitled "Building an Inclusive Campus: Homophobia and Heterosexism as Barriers," led by Dr. Eleanor Hubbard, professor of sociology at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Before the activity began, Gallaudet Provost Jane Fernandes told the group, "The death of Eric Plunkett and the events after that have really shaken me personally, and I am committed to doing something. ... but I can't do it alone, and I'm thrilled to see so many individuals willing to do something with me. This will make us a stronger community."

Hubbard, an expert in diversity awareness, said that her goal was to help the group with the process of looking at themselves as individuals and at the campus community. She posed questions for the members at each table to discuss, with the aim of compiling a list of five aspects that will lead to building an inclusive campus.

At the end of the discussion, several members of the audience came forward to announce steps that their discussion group came up with to improve inclusiveness at Gallaudet. Mandatory sensitivity training for faculty, staff, students, and administrators was one suggestion. The University's credo, which is in the development stage, should include language about the campus embracing diversity, was another. One group observed that education about understanding diversity needs to begin early, at residential schools and mainstream programs, so that students will be more enlightened about inclusiveness by the time they reach college age.

The summaries of the discussions will be compiled and shared with the Diversity Council to help in their planning.